**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1-5 and 8-26, and add new claims 28-31 as follows.

Claims 6-7 and 27 are re-presented.

PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Once Amended) A method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first and second resolution levels.

3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level; and

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

4. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection technique.

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5. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified coordinates.

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6. The method of claim 1, comprising:

combining the at least two digital images.

7. The method of claim 1, comprising:

identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second resolution level.

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8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level;

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level overlap; and

combining the digital images.

9. (Once Amended) A computer readable medium having instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

10. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first and second resolution levels.

11. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level; and

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

12. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection technique.

13. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified coordinates.

14. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises combining the at least two digital images.

15. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second resolution level.

16. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method comprises:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level;

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level overlap; and

combining the digital images.

17. (Once Amended) A computer system comprising:

(a) one or more processors; and

(b) a computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

(i) identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level,

(ii) dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level, and

(iii) identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

18. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, comprising a computer readable medium to store each of the at least two digital images at the first and second resolution levels.

19. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, comprising memory, the computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in the memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level,

purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level, and

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

20. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap each comprise using an edge detection technique.

21. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified coordinates.

22. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, the computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform combining the at least two digital images.

23. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, the computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second resolution level.

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24. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, the computer readable medium to store instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level,

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level,

identifying where overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level overlap, and

combining the digital images.

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25. (Once Amended) A computer system comprising:

means for identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

means for dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

means for identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second resolution level overlap.

26. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 25, comprising:

means for storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

means for purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level; and

means for storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

27. The computer system of claim 25, comprising:

means for combining the at least two digital images.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dividing comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.

29. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the dividing comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.

30. (New) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the dividing comprises dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.

31. (New) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the dividing means comprises means for dividing each of the at least two digital images at the second resolution level into a plurality of tiles each having a size less than a threshold size.